

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: April 26, 2003

Contact: Cari Boyce/ Sherri Creech Johnson
Phone: (919) 733-5612/ (919) 733-2522

GOV. EASLEY NAMES MORGAN CREEK BRIDGE IN HONOR OF JAMES TAYLOR

CHAPEL HILL - Gov. Mike Easley joined State Transportation Secretary Lyndo Tippet, Board of Transportation Chairman Doug Galyon, and local, state and federal officials in a ceremony dedicating the U.S. 15-501 bridge over Morgan Creek in Chapel Hill as the *James Taylor Bridge*. The dedication ceremony honored former Chapel Hill resident and multi-platinum singer/songwriter James Taylor.

"For 35 years, James Taylor has unselfishly shared his one-of-a-kind musical talent with the world," said Easley. "His success in the music industry is the result of deeply rooted North Carolina values and a family work ethic that favors humility and hard work over celebrity. North Carolinians are proud of James' artistic gifts and the way he has chosen to share them so freely with others. His famous song 'Carolina In My Mind' reminds us all of what makes our state so special."

"There could not be a more perfect tribute to James Taylor, who grew up on the banks of the copper-colored creek he sings about in his hit song, 'Copperline,'" said Tippet. "One of my top priorities is to protect the environment so I'm pleased that today's dedication will help bring more attention to the importance of the Morgan Creek Valley to the natural and cultural heritage of the region."

James Vernon Taylor was born in Boston, Massachusetts on March 12, 1948 to Isaac and Trudy Taylor. He moved to Chapel Hill, N.C. at the age of three when his father accepted a position to eventually become Dean of the Medical School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Taylor attended local schools in Chapel Hill and spent his formative years perfecting his guitar style and performing music in the Chapel Hill area.

In 1968, Taylor released his self-titled debut album on Apple Records, which contained the single "Carolina In My Mind." Since then, he has achieved 42 Gold, Platinum, Multi-Platinum and Diamond RIAA certifications for his records and videos. He also has received several awards including Billboard Magazine's Century Award for creative achievement and the North Carolina Award for lifetime public achievement in public service, fine arts, sciences and literature. Taylor was inducted into the Songwriter's and Rock and Roll Halls of Fame in 2000.

Taylor has earned a total of four Grammys. His latest studio album "October Road," was certified platinum two months after its release in August 2002, and "The Best of James Taylor,"—a 20-song compilation of favorite hits and a brand new song, "Bittersweet," chronicles the singer's 35-year career with Apple, Warner Bros. and Columbia/Sony. "The Best of James Taylor" was released April 8. Taylor's U.S. "October Road '03" tour begins May 15 and concludes in October. ###

Governor's Press Office
State Capitol, Raleigh, NC 27603-8001
(919) 733-5612 - Toll Free 1-800-662-7005
FAX (919) 733-5166